

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the Office Action dated December 8, 2006. In response, independent claims 1 and 23 have been amended to replace the word "plasticiser" with the word "superplasticiser". Such a change is supported in the specification on Page 13, lines 17-31. Re-examination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Accompanying this response is a Request for Continued Examination of the application.

It is submitted that the amended claims are patentable over the prior art patents cited in the Office Action. In this regard, Friedman (U.S. Patent No. 4,043,831) does not refer to a superplasticiser such as those defined in the present application but instead references only bentonite and other clays. A superplasticiser acts to reduce water consumption by deflocking water molecules. In this regard, the additive of the present invention is a superplasticiser such as a pure sodium salt of a polynaphthalene sulphonate or any superplasticiser which acts as a high range water reducing agent. As would be appreciated by a person skilled in the art, the superplasticiser or high range water reducing agent acts to reduce the water required in the mix by deflocking the particles of the powder from each other via its electro chemical charge and thus freeing the water molecules to provide flow rather than being electrically bound to the powder and thus immobilized.

Golitz (U.S. Patent No. 5,583,079) discloses a binder and a ball-clay added to improve plasticity. Neither of these can be considered to be a superplasticiser which acts to reduce the consumption of water required in the mix.

The binder of Talmy (U.S. Patent No. 5,521,132) cannot be considered as a superplasticiser acting to reduce the consumption of water in the mix.

Widaj (PL 129013) is limited to a styrene acrylic plasticiser which does not meet the requirements of a superplasticiser of the present invention.

Wei (CN 1398813) discloses includes bentonite which similarly does not meet the requirements of a superplasticiser.

Du (CN 1268495) discloses clay which does not meet the requirements of a superplasticiser.

Ban (U.S. Patent No. 3,374,101) discloses a sodium silicate which does not meet the requirements of a superplasticiser.

Foster (U.S. Patent No. 3,354,245) does not disclose a plasticizer and certainly not a superplasticiser as defined in the present application.

The superplasticiser of the present invention acts entirely differently from the clay and bentonite disclosed in the prior art. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application, as now presented, are clearly distinguishable from the prior art. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 1, 3-7, 9-19 and 23 are in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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